(b) if so, the recommendations made by the Commission;

(c) the recommendations accepted and acted upon; and

(d) by when all the recommendations would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) as above.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Task force for cleaning of Yamuna river

*259. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high powered task force has been constituted to accelerate the cleaning of river Yamuna in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of funds allocated for the same and up-till now how much money has been incurred on the cleaning of river Yamuna?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, in pursuance to the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court a three tier monitoring mechanism has been constituted. This includes an Apex Committee under the Ministry of Urban Development.

(c) For the abatement of pollution of river Yamuna, the Ministry of Environment & Forests under the National River Conservation Directorate has launched YAP-I and YAP-II at a total cost of Rs. 1339 crore. So far an expenditure of Rs. 686 crore has been incurred under YAP-I and YAP-II. In addition the Governments of NCT of Delhi, Haryana and U.P. have also taken up large scale sewerage, non-sewerage and sewage treatment works out of the their own plan funds.

Oilseeds production

*260. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Organisation for Oil Industry and Trade has

estimated the oilseeds production for the Kharif 2006-07 at 128.4 lakh tonnes which is about 9 lakh tonnes lower than that of last year's 137 lakh tonnes;

(b) if so, Government's estimation of oilseeds production for Kharif 2006-07;

(c) the reasons for drop in production of oilseeds; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to see that prices do not rise due to fall in production of oilseeds?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per available information, the Central Organisation for Oil Industry and Trade has estimated the oilseeds production for Kharif 2006-07 at 128.4 lakh tonnes which is 8 6 lakh tonnes lower than that of last year's 137.0 lakh tonnes.

The Government's estimate of oilseeds production for Kharif 2006-07, as per the 1st advance estimates released on 15.09.2006, stands at 132.39 lakh tonnes as compared to the corresponding estimate of 145.62 lakh tonnes of Kharif 2005-06.

(c) Drop in oilseeds production for Kharif 2006-07 is mainly on account of lower area sown, estimated at 157.38 lakh hectares this year compared to 167.89 lakh hectares for Kharif 2005-06, showing a decrease of 10.51 lakh hectares.

(d) Government monitors the prices of essential commodities closely on a regular basis. The import duty on palm group of oils was reduced by 10 percentage points in August 2006 to check rise in prices of edible oils. Further, in order to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds, a centrally sponsored scheme is under implementation since April, 2004 in 14 major oilseed growing states, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Under the scheme, assistance is provided on 75:25 percent basis between the Government of India and the State Governments, *inter-alia*, for production and distribution of seeds, provision of minikits and Integrated Pest Management (IPM). The increasing trend in production alongwith imports of edible oils has kept the prices within reasonable levels.